

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LIMA 00595 241726Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----242110Z 024790 /73

R 241615Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3427  
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

S E C R E T LIMA 0595

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PE, BL, BC, CI  
SUBJECT: CONTINUED GOB CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE CHILE-PERU WAR

REF: LA PAZ 0581

1. WE CAN CERTAINLY SYMPATHIZE WITH BOLIVIA'S CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT THE DIRECT OR INDIRECT EFFECTS OF A PERUVIAN ATTACK ON CHILE. THE BASIC SOURCES OF REGIONAL TENSION WE LISTED IN LIMA 0307 REMAIN.

2. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT CURRENT TENSIONS ARE FEEDING UPON THEMSELVES, AND THAT USG SHOULD STRIVE TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF FUELING THEM. WE PRESUME ALSO THAT U.S. WISHES TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO ANY SPECIAL COMMITMENT TO BOLIVIA OR ANY OTHER PARTY IN THIS CONTROVERSY.

3. FOR ABOVE REASONS, AND BECAUSE FIELDING AT LEAST SOME OF QUESTIONS IN PARA 3 REFTEL SHOULD SURELY AWAIT BASIC POLICY DECISIONS FLOWING FROM RECENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND CONCERNED POSTS, WE HOPE THAT ANY APPROACH BY GOB ALONG LINES SUGGESTED CAN BE DELICATELY HELD IN ABEYANCE WHILE USG STUDY

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OF PROBLEM CONTINUES.

4. WITH RESPECT TO QUESTION 3C REFTEL, PERUVIAN LEADERS AT HIGHEST LEVELS HAVE ASSURED US AND PUBLIC THAT THERE ARE AND WILL BE NO POLITICAL CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO SOVIET ARMS SALES. WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT AT THIS TIME.

5. THIS LATEST REPORT OF FEARS OF A PERUVIAN THRUST THROUGH BOLIVIA TOWARD CHILE CAUSED US TO REVIEW SANTIAGO DAO IR G-817-0012-77, AND WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH THE ARMA COMMENT THAT A PERUVIAN TURNING MOVEMENT THROUGH BOLIVIA IS NOT NEW, HAVING BEEN MENTIONED MANY TIMES IN THE PAST. WE ALSO RECALL THAT BOLIVIA HAS IN THE PAST COUPLED REFERENCE TO SUCH A POSSIBLE PERUVIAN MANEUVER WITH REQUESTS FOR INCREASED OR SPEEDED-UP MILITARY ASSISTANCE. DEAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009